

## Message Text

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17

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AGR-10 AID-05 EB-07

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

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AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN UNGA WFC

SUBJ: 30TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY--ITEM 60, FOOD PROBLEMS

1. SUMMARY: THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, JOHN HANNAH, INTRODUCED THE ITEM AND REPORTED ON THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL, AIDED BY URGING FORM US. DELEGATION, MODERATES WITHG-77 CAME DOWN HARD AGAINST A REPLY OF THE PYROTECHNICS WHICH CHARACTERIZED THE COUNCIL'S FIRST SESSION. AS A RESULT, THE FIRST SEVEN SPEAKERS INTERVENING TODAY WERE CORDIAL AND SUPPORTIVE OF THE HANNAH REPORT. THE MAJRO NEW ELEMENT IN THE DISCUSSION OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE WAS THE REVELATION BY HANNAH THAT THE WORKING GROUP OF THE INTERESTED COUNTRIES HAD DECIDED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BE SET UP "AS A SPECIALIZED AGENCY WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM WITH AUTONOMY, IN POLICY FORMULATION, AND OPERATIONS, AND IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS." END SUMMARY

2. WORLD FOOD COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HANNAH INTRODUCED THE ITEM BY RECALLING THE PROGRESS MADE SINCE LAST NOVEMBER IN IMPLEMENTING THE 22 OPERATHIONAL RESOLUTIONS OF THE WORLD  
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FOOD CONFERENCE (FULL TEXT BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT). THERE-

AFTER, HE REVIEWED THE COUNCIL'S EXAMINATION OF THE NEEDS OF THE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED. HE ALSO DISCUSSED THE 1975/1976 FOOD AID TARGET SHORTFALL WHILE PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE GENEROUS EFFORTS OF CANADA, AUSTRALIA, SWEDEN, AND THE UNITED STATES. HANNAH BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE NEW COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMS SHOULD CONSIDER ESTABLISHING FOOD AID TARGETS FOR DAIRY AND FISH PRODUCTS, OILS AND FATS, AS WELL AS OTHER FOODS. HE THEN DISCUSSED THE STEPS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON WORLD FERTILIZER POLICY MADE BY THE FAO FERTILIZER COMMISSION.

3. TURNING TO THE IFAD, HANNAH DESCRIBED THE MAY 5 AND 6 MEETING OF INTERESTED COUNTRIES AND THE MORE IMPORTANT CONCLUSIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN REACHED BY THE WORKING GROUP AND ARE TO BE RECOMMENDED TO THE MEETING OF INTERESTED COUNTRIES AT ITS ROME SESSION OCTOBER 27-31. THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE--

1. TO SET UP THE IFAD AS A SPECIALIZED AGENCY;
2. THAT THE INITIAL CAPITAL OF THE FUND BE 1 BILLION SDR'S, ONE-HALF SUPPLIED BY DEVELOPING DONOR COUNTRIES AND ONE-HALF BY DEVELOPED DONOR COUNTRIES;
3. THAT IT COMPLETE AND APPROVE DRAFT ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT OF THE FUND RECOMMENDED BY THE WORKING GROUP; AND
4. THAT THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY REQUEST THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO CONVENE A MEETING OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY TO ADOPT THE DRAFT ARTICLES AND COMPLETE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FUND.

4. AFTER REVIEWING A FEW KEY ARTICLES OF THE AGREEMENT, HANNAH CONCLUDED HIS INTERVENTION BY EMPHASIZING THAT IF THERE IS TO BE ENDURING PEACE IN THE WORLD, THERE MUST BE ENOUGH FOOD TO ELIMINATE HUNGER EVERYWHERE.

5. EGYPT FULLY ENDORSED THE HANNAH REPORT. AMBASSADOR MEGUID SAID THAT 20 MILLION ADDITIONAL TONS OF FOOD WERE NEEDED MERELY TO FEED NEW MOUTHS. THIS MEANT THAT INCREASED PRODUCTION IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD IS A SINE QUA NON. HE THEREFORE ENDORSED THE NEED FOR PESTICIDES, FERTILIZERS, AND THE FORMATION OF IFAD AS A NECESSARY INGREDIENT TO INCREASE PRODUCTION. HE DESCRIBED THE COMMITMENT TO FOOD SECURITY AS A SAFETY VALVE TO WHICH PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE IS ATTACHED. BUT WHAT REMAINS IS A FULFILLMENT OF THESE COMMITMENTS IN ORDER THAT THE LDC'S

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COULD MEET THEIR NEEDS WHILE STRIVING FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD PRODUCTION. THEREAFTER MEGUID OFFERED CAIRO AS THE HEADQUARTERS SITE FOR IFAD AND CONFIRMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT WOULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FACILITIES.

6. CHILE THEN MADE A RELATIVELY LONG INTERVENTION WHOSE THESIS WAS THAT AS LONG AS HUNGER EXISTS, PEACE IS IMPOSSIBLE. DESPITE THE BEST LDC EFFORTS, A COMBINATION OF NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL PHENOMENA (BAN WEATHER, INFLATION, ETC.) CONTRIBUTED

TO CONTINUING SHORTAGES. THE CHILEAN REPRESENTATIVE RE-COUNTED MANY EFFORTS BEING MADE BY CHILE TO ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY. HE INDICATED THAT WITHIN EIGHTEEN MONTHS CHILE HAD REDUCED ITS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT IN FOOD FROM 7 HUNDRED MILLION TO 3 HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS. HE CONCLUDED BY GENERALLY ENDORSING OBJECTIVES OF NEIO.

7. CANADA STATED THAT THE FOOD CHAPTER OF THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION'S RESOLUTION 3372 ACCURATELY CITES PRINCIPAL PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVING GLOBAL FOOD PRODUCTION. CANADA'S NEW AID STRATEGY IS INTENDED TO FOCUS ON THIS BASIC OBJECTIVE OF GLOBAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME. IN THE INTERIM, CANADA RECOGNIZES AND PLEDGES HER SUPPORT TO FOOD AID TARGETS. IN THAT CONNECTION, CANADA PLEDGED 1 MILLION TONS ANNUALLY FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS. THE SPEAKER CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT CANADA FAVORS MORE LIBERAL TRADE POLICIES AND WILL BE PURSUING THIS END IN BOTH UNCTAD AND FAO. AS HAD THE PREVIOUS SPEAKERS. HE VOICED CONFIDENCE IN THE LEADERSHIP OF JOHN HANNAH.

8. AUSTRALIA CONCEDED THAT WHILE PROGRESS IN SOME FIELDS HAS BEEN MADE, MUCH MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE. SUPPORT WAS GIVEN TO IFAD AND THE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT. THE SPEAKER SUPPORTED WORLD FOOD SECURITY AND RESTATED AUSTRALIA'S STRONG BELIEF IN GOVERNMENTAL INTERVENTION IN BOTH FOOD PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION. HE CALLED FOR INTENSIVE WORK ON FOOD SECURITY AND THE CONCEPT OF GRAIN RESERVES AT STRATEGIC POINTS IN THE WORLD, WHILE URGING RAPID INCREASE IN FOOD PRODUCTION OF THE LDC'S AND INTENSIFIED EFFORTS OF WORLD DEVELOPMENT AND PLEDGED SUBSTANTIAL FOOD AID INCREASES TO THE THIRD WORLD.

9. ROMANIA CONCENTRATED ON THE THESIS THAT FOOD IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN ANY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY. HE URGED THAT DECISIONS TAKEN HERE CANNOT BE DIVORCED FROM THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION, PROGRAM EVALUATION, INVESTMENT, AND RECLAMATION

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AS ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS IN THE FOOD SUFFICIENCY EQUATION.

10. GREECE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL IN THE LAST YEAR. SHE SUPPORTED IFAD AND SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESENT FOOD CRISIS IS DUE TO SERIOUS STRUCTURAL BOTTLENECKS. IFAD SHOULD SOON BE GIVEN GUIDANCE ON HOW TO MAXIMIZE ITS EFFECTIVENESS. THE SPOKESMAN ALSO CALLED FOR IMPROVED DISTRIBUTION AND REDUCTIONS IN POST-HARVEST LOSSES. HE FINALLY OFFERED COOPERATION OF GREECE'S AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES IN ATTACKING FOOD PROBLEMS.

11. SOMALIA PINPOINTED FOOD AS THE NO. 1 PROBLEM IN THE WORLD AND CITED THE COMBINATION OF POPULATION INCREASES AND FOOD PRODUCTION DECREASES AS KEY ISSUES. SOMALIA'S SPOKESMAN WELCOMED THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AND URGED THAT IT DO MORE THAN MERELY COORDINATE FOOD POLICY. THE SPOKESMAN ENDORSED SELF-SUFFICIENCY AS A DESIRABLE GOAL WHERE POSSIBLE,

WELCOMED IFAD, AND SUPPORTED THE FOOD AID TARGET. HE CONCLUDED BY SUGGESTING THAT THE UNITED NATIONS MUST BE JUST AS RESPONSIBLE FOR STABILIZING AND PROTECTING FOOD SECURITY AS IT HAS BEEN IN NUMEROUS OTHER AREAS OF HUMAN ENDEAVOR.

12. THE FOOD ITEM HAS BEEN ADJOURNED UNTIL OCTOBER 16. US. DELEGATION WILL PROBABLY SPEAK OCT. 16 OR 17. IT WILL BE KEPT OPEN UNTIL THE GROUP OF INTERESTED COUNTRIES HAS MET AT ROME IN ORDER TO PROMOTE DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS OF THAT SESSION.

13. COMMENT: USUN FIRST SAW THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF THE IFAD THIS AM. WE HAD NOT KNOWN THAT A TENTATIVE OR PRELIMINARY DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN TO RECOMMEND THAT THE IFAD BE SET UP AS A SPECIALIZED AGENCY. WOULD APPRECIATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE REACTIONS AND GUIDANCE ON THE REPORT AND THE DRAFT ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT. REGARDING SITE, HANNAH INTERJECTED IN HIS STATEMENT MENTION OF THE EGYPTIAN INTEREST ALONG WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR STRONG G-77 SENTIMENT TO HAVE IT IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY BUT INDICATED THAT THE WORKING GROUP FAVORS ROME AS AN INTERIM SITE. END COMMENT.  
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